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3.18.2011
HB 180
EXHIBIT NO. 2113
DATE

To: Senate State Administrative Committee

From: Joy Bruck, AARP State President

Re: HB 180

Mr. Chairman, for the record, I am Joy Bruck. State President of AARP Montana, a non-partisan organization of approximately 155,000 members in Montana.

We oppose HB 180 because we believe that voting systems should encourage maximum voter participation and same day registration is a big step in allowing this to happen. I have served as an election judge for many years and there are legitimate reasons for people needing to register on Election Day – not due to a lack of responsibility on their part. Some seniors may have been ill or may have become somewhat incapacitated or housebound and do not realize they have a problem with their registration until they arrive at the polls. Should we disenfranchise them when they may be some of our most faithful voters? We think not.

We do not want to see our right to vote jeopardized and believe not allowing same day registration will do exactly that; therefore, we oppose this bill and hope you will do the same.